

## ENG 210 Practice Page 9

Research, from professor D.J. Hanson Ph.D. at State University of New York, shows that from 1980 to 2003 the percentage of those who consumed alcohol in the past 30 days it dropped 25%, and for those who consume alcohol daily it dropped from 6% to 3%. Also on top of this alcohol-related fatalities dropped from 60% to 40% from 1982 to 2002. One may ask if these decreases result from the higher drinking age of 21, or from better alcohol education? Depending upon who you asked, you will get mixed messages. Some say that alcohol is a big factor in suicides, homicides, and fatal injuries. Others might add that two-thirds of sexual assault is influenced by alcohol. Yet there is always going to be two sides to every story, only time will tell what method of preventing irresponsible drinking will work best.

## ENG 210 Practice Page 10

Society think that keeping the drinking age at 21 years old will help prevent alcohol-related accidents. This is similar to saying that violent music makes people commit violent acts yet the only person responsible is themselves. I find it funny that the government will not let us drink legally till we are 21, but we can have every other privilege at younger ages. I could be off in another country, fighting to protect the rights of others here in the USA, but can't have a drink in my own country. In my eyes this is a violation of rights. Drinking would not be an issue if society did not make it an issue; a huge mix of different beliefs and alcohol is present in so many traditions such as Irish or Italian families where drinking is custom at family get togethers or with a meal. So why is it that we have such a problem when others don't? Drinking is a problem, because we say that is a problem. I agree with the whole idea of alcohol being the forbidden fruit, any time you tell someone they can't do something they just want to do it more than ever before.